

PRESS RELEASE

The Bloodhound came to Venture

WITH PHOTOS

30 September, 2014

For immediate release:

Pupils from across Norfolk and Suffolk had great fun while learning about a supersonic pencil-shaped car powered by a jet engine and a rocket at Ormiston Venture Academy in Gorleston.

The Bloodhound SSC (supersonic car) engineering adventure – included a 14 metre replica of the real car, a driving simulator and a eurofighter jet engine – was in residence at the Venture Academy’s auditorium until October 17.

The Bloodhound team plans to achieve a World Land Speed Record of 1000mph in 2016 but it is first and foremost an education project designed to inspire future generations to take up careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Up to 120 pupils a day attended Venture and watched a presentation about the development of the Bloodhound followed by four workshops, including learning about additive manufacturing using a 3D printer and how it can reduce carbon footprints. Each pupil was given an introduction to the full-sized model and the use of the simulator.

Space loving Aztec, a year seven pupil at Ormiston Venture Academy, found the day really informative:

“Ever since I was young I have been interested in man going in to space. I think children need to learn about space as we will have to live up there. I’ve loved learning about jet engines, rockets, hydraulics and figuring out the weight and the size of the Bloodhound.”

Friends Casey and Erin, both 11, enjoyed the workshop where they were challenged to build a K“Nex car that had a rocket added to it and was then tested in the playground.

“Seeing the supersonic car they are building was really exciting,” explained Erin. “My favourite part was creating the car that we raced against the others as I really like working in a team.”

Casey added: “It has been really fun and exciting as we have done four different workshops. I was in Erin’s team to make the car and that was great. My second favourite workshop was the telemetry workshop where we had to use a red car fitted with a blue tooth that sent data to a computer to recreate graphs created by the Bloodhound.”

Bloodhound SSC team member Allan Read took the telemetry class. At the end he told the group:

“You can go to a Formula 1 team and now what they are doing as I have shown you, and you now know how telemetry works.”

Ormiston Venture Academy principal, Simon Gilbert-Barnham explained how the school managed to host the Bloodhound SSC engineering project:

“It is a very exciting project for the students. We have several schools from across the area participating and we have Ignite, our teaching school, to thank for it bringing the experience to the east coast.”

Director of mathematics at Ormiston Venture Academy, James Scotney said: “There is a shortage of scientists, engineers and mathematicians and we therefore urgently need our young people to be motivated to enjoy and study science, technology and maths (STEM) subjects at school and then university.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

About Ormiston Venture Academy:

- Ormiston Venture Academy (Venture) opened in September 2010 in the existing buildings of the predecessor school, Oriel High School.
- Venture is sponsored by the Ormiston Academies Trust and specialises in digital media and mathematics.

- Venture is dedicated to creating a personalised, inclusive environment where every child can feel safe, enjoy and achieve. This is supported by the belief that every child has the potential to succeed when tradition is valued and innovation embraced.
- Venture watchwords are ASPIRE, ACHIEVE, CREATE and INNOVATE.
- Venture provides a student-centred, innovative learning environment with a creative curriculum.
- Venture specialises in mathematics and digital media.
- Venture has 607 students from year 7 through to year 11.
- Ofsted report May 2013 declared Ormiston Venture Academy **outstanding**:
- Inspired leadership from the Principal has transformed the quality of education provided for students. Her determination to raise their aspirations and achievement has led to rapid and sustained improvements.”
- Standards have risen from well below to above the national average since opening.”

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